

THANKSGIVING STANDING IN THE GAP

For Justice, Purification & Miracles

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*"I will praise the name of God with a song;*

*I will magnify him with thanksgiving."*

Psalm 69:30

***There are two words for thanksgiving in the Sacred Scriptures*** that provide a richness of understanding God's language in communing with us. In this season of Thanksgiving, we deepen our understanding of the spiritual virtues and practices of Thanksgiving, as we thank our pilgrim forbears for giving us this special tradition of thankfulness to God our Father. Happy Thanksgiving!

The first word is the Hebrew *todah*, bringing us clues from the Old Testament. The second word is the Greek *eucharistia*, bringing insights from the New Testament. We can look at places in the Sacred Scriptures where these words appear, to bring us into deeper union with our Heavenly Father, and to enrich our own hearts with the living practice of thankfulness. Halleluia.

*"Sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs to God  
with thankful hearts."*

Colossians 3:16

***Let Us Pray Together...***

***Dear Heavenly Father, in this season of Thanksgiving, we come before You to give thanks and gratitude for all You have done, are doing and will do to bring the restoration and realization of our nation's covenant with You, one nation under God.***

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Your prophetic Word in Psalm 107:19-22 foretells your promise, and we proclaim it here and now: “Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble, and he saved them from their distress. He sent out his word and healed them; he rescued them from the grave. Let them give thanks to the Lord for his unfailing love and his wonderful deeds for mankind. Let them sacrifice thank offerings and tell of his works with songs of joy.”

Heavenly Father, thank you for sending us Your Word to heal us, to heal the soul of our country America, to rescue it from the grave. We give You thanks for Your unfailing love and your wonderful deeds You are and shall be doing to heal America and make America a shining city on the hill, a holy nation unto You Lord God Most High.

Thanksgiving is a Spiritual Discipline & Way of Being

- ◆ Dear Heavenly Father, in our culture we are entrained to say thanks only after we have received something. But Your Word teaches us that giving thanks is actually a spiritual discipline and a spiritual practice that Jesus the Christ modeled for us. Jesus is Thanksgiving Incarnate.
- ◆ 1 Thessalonians 5:18 tells us to always be giving thanks, not just on special occasions: “Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.” Lord God, I commit and re-commit to giving genuine thanks every day of my life regardless of circumstances.
- ◆ Colossians 2:6-7 instructs: “So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and **overflowing with thankfulness.**” I commit to living “overflowing in thankfulness.”

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- ◆ Hebrews 3:15 tells us Jesus is the Way of Thanksgiving: “*Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise—the fruit of lips that openly profess his name.*” Thank you Lord Jesus, for modeling a way for our life to be a Thanksgiving.

### Thanksgiving is Fellowship With God Our Father

- ◆ Dear Heavenly Father, You convey to us in Leviticus 7:12-13 that thanksgiving is a heart-to-Heart means of fellowship with You; as this is the first place where your word *today* appears in your Sacred Word.
- ◆ “*If they offer it as an expression of thankfulness, then along with this thank offering they are to offer thick loaves made without yeast and with olive oil mixed in, thin loaves made without yeast and brushed with oil, and thick loaves of the finest flour well-kneaded and with oil mixed in. Along with **their fellowship offering of thanksgiving** [today] they are to present an offering with thick loaves of bread made with yeast.*”
- ◆ Father God Abba, I commit to making some kind of fellowship offering of thanksgiving in this Thanksgiving season. Please receive my thanksgiving to bring our hearts in true union, so that I may fulfill the Lord Jesus Christ’s exhortation in Matthew 5:48, to “*Be ye perfect [in love] as your Heavenly Father is perfect.*” Thanksgiving perfects my capacity to truly love as You love, as Jesus the Christ loves.

### Thanksgiving Precedes National Deliverance

- ◆ Dear Abba Father, Your Word shows us that thanksgiving precedes, paves the way for, brings in, deliverance of nations. THIS is our fervent prayer in this Thanksgiving season. Deliver America from all evil Lord God. In Jesus’ name. We thank you for all the ways that You have blessed and ARE blessing us today in spite of the turbulence.

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- ◆ To save the city of Nineveh, Jonah 2:9 declares: *“But I will sacrifice to You with the voice of thanksgiving [todah]; I will pay what I have vowed. Salvation is of the LORD.”*
- ◆ In promising future restoration of Israel, Hosea 14:2 exhorts: *“Bring your confessions and return to the LORD. Say to Him: ‘Take away all our iniquity and receive us graciously, that we may present the fruit of our lips.’”*
- ◆ Judgement of nation is tempered by thanksgiving and gratitude; as Psalm 50:14 instructs: *“Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving [todah]; and pay (keep) your vows to the Most High.”* And You Lord God reply in Psalm 50:23, *“The one who offers thanksgiving [todah]; as his sacrifice glorifies me; to one who orders his way rightly I will show the salvation of God!”*
- ◆ To bring his kingdom back into covenant relationship with You, King Hezekiah exhorted his people in 2 Chronicles 29:31: *“‘You have now dedicated yourselves to the Lord. Come and bring sacrifices and thank offerings, to the temple of the Lord.’ So the assembly brought sacrifices and thank offerings, and all whose hearts were willing brought burnt offerings.”*
- ◆ Heavenly Father, standing in the gap for America, we dedicate ourselves to You and Your Divine Will. I bring sacrifices to You in this season (physical, material, spiritual¹) and lay my heart at the feet of Jesus to do as He wills with it.

Our Thanksgiving Brings In the Kingdom

- ◆ Dear Abba Father, we stand in the gap for America and repent for all the times and ways we have not loved You as we should have, have not kept You at the center of our hearts, AS the center of our hearts and

¹ Make actual acts of personal sacrifice to our Lord God in this Thanksgiving season; not just verbal promises.

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lives. Have not thanked You for all the ways You have blessed us, protected us, taken care of us. God forgive us! We release Your Word over America to bring in Your Kingdom come, Your Will be done, here on earth as it is in Heaven.

- ◆ I commit to having Christ Jesus rule in my heart, as Colossians 3:15 instructs: *"Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful [eucharistoi]."*
- ◆ Hebrews 12:28-29 declares: *"Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe, for our God is a consuming fire."*
- ◆ Lord God, may your grace reach and touch every American; as 2 Corinthians 4:15 says: *"All this is for your benefit, so that the grace that is reaching more and more people may cause thanksgiving [eucharistian] increase to the glory of God."*
- ◆ Thank you Heavenly Father Abba, for your kingdom of light, as our eternal destination. As Colossians 1:12-14 provides: *"And giving joyful thanks [eucharistountes] to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of his holy people in the kingdom of light. For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins."*
- ◆ Lord God, your ekklesia is united through Your Word, through our Lord Jesus Christ, and we thank you that we are all sharing in your Kingdom; as Psalm 79:13 comforts: *"Then we your people, the sheep of your pasture, will praise you forever; from generation to generation we will proclaim your praise."*

## Thanksgiving Counters Anxiety & Fear

- ◆ Lord God, Your beautiful Word tells us that *"perfect love casts out fear."* You do not want us to live in fear and its sister, anxiety. As the Prince of

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Peace, Jesus is also Thanksgiving Incarnate and taught us to live in thanksgiving as a way of peace.

- ◆ Philippians 4:6-7 exhorts: *"Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving [eucharistias], present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."*
- ◆ Colossians 3:17 says: *"And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him."* We give thanks to You God the Father for this land of liberty, America; free to worship the One True God and His Son Messiah Jesus the Christ.

Thanksgiving is Faith in Action

- ◆ Dear Abba Father, Your Word Incarnate demonstrated to us that thanksgiving is faith in action. Jesus performed miracles by giving You thanks in advance of the miracle. He knew that You would manifest your glory by faith, through faith in action.
- ◆ In John 6:11, Jesus multiples 5 loaves of bread and 2 fish into enough to feed 1000's. Yet all we know is that He *"gave thanks"* first: *"Jesus then took the loaves, **gave thanks** [eucharistia], and distributed to those who were seated as much as they wanted. He did the same with the fish."* And in Matthew 14:19, *"Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, **he gave thanks** [eucharistia] and broke the loaves."*
- ◆ *"Looking to heaven"* means He knew that the grace and abundance comes from You, not his own cleverness or personal power. Heavenly Father, I look to You and lean not on my own understanding for how, where and through what means You choose to bless me in my life and vocation; in how You choose to bless America.

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- ◆ Jesus proclaimed the New Covenant in a Thanksgiving ritual, *eucharistia*, as Matthew 26:26-28 describes: *“While they were eating, Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, ‘Take and eat; this is my body.’ Then he took a cup, and when he had given thanks [eucharistēsas], he gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you. This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.”*
- ◆ St. Paul the Apostle affirms in 1 Corinthians 11:23-24, *“For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, and when he had given thanks [eucharistēsas], he broke it, and said, ‘This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.’”* Jesus initiated the New Covenant through the spiritual act of thanksgiving. How profound!
- ◆ Thank you our Lord Jesus Christ, Yeshua Hamashiach, for the profound gift of Thanksgiving that You gave the world through your blood sacrifice; for your resurrection, paving the way for us to join You in eternal life. Amen and Amen.

## SEALING PRAYER

*“Because they have no regard for the deeds of the Lord  
and what his hands have done,  
he will tear them down  
and never build them up again.  
Praise be to the Lord,  
for he has heard my cry for mercy.  
The Lord is my strength and my shield;  
my heart trusts in him, and he helps me.  
My heart leaps for joy,  
and with my song I praise him.*

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*The Lord is the strength of his people,
a fortress of salvation for his anointed one.
Save your people and bless your inheritance;
be their shepherd and carry them forever.”*

Psalm 28:5-9

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*“Whenever the living creatures give glory,  
honor and thanks to him who sits on the throne  
and who lives for ever and ever,  
the twenty-four elders fall down before him  
who sits on the throne  
and worship him who lives for ever and ever.  
They lay their crowns before the throne and say:  
‘You are worthy, our Lord and God,  
to receive glory and honor and power,  
for you created all things,  
and by your will they were created  
and have their being.’”*

Revelations 4:9-11